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THE

BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL;

CONTAINING

THE EARLIEST INFORMATION ON SUBJECTS OF

MEDICINE, SURGERY, CHEMISTRY, PHARMACY, BOTANY, AND NATURAL HISTORY.

—— Ex Medicina nihil oportet putare proficisci, nisi quod ad utilitatem corporis spectat, quoniam ejus causâ est instituta.

CICERO, *de Inventione, Lib. I.*

PROSPECTUS.

MAGAZINES and other Periodical Works have lately been generally adopted, as vehicles of useful knowledge, more extensive in their effect than any other species of publication. That others are however still wanted to supply the Medical Department of literature, is a fact which has long been obvious to every inquisitive observer.

There is at present no Monthly Journal in the English language, the professed and single design of which is to communicate accounts of every new Observation and valuable Discovery made from time to time in the different branches of Medicine; and still it must be confessed, that an *early circulation* of intelligence so essential to the practitioner, as well as to society in general, has not been attended to, in this country, with the care which the importance of the object required.—The present undertaking, therefore, is intended to exhibit a compendious

compendious view of all ſuch matters of fact as lie and remain ſcattered, at preſent, through a vaſt number of expenſive and voluminous publications, as well foreign as domeſtic, and which deſerve to be more generally known to the Medical Practitioner.

Conſidering the important and rapid progreſs daily made in Chemiſtry, Natural Philoſophy, and other ſciences connected with Medicine, it becomes matter of juſt ſurpriſe, that no effectual plan has hitherto been adopted, to furniſh the Britiſh Public with an accurate Analyſis of all the Novelties and Improvements which continually appear in various countries and languages.

To accompliſh this deſirable purpoſe, and more fully to illuſtrate the principles of a ſcience, on the due cultivation of which our enjoyments and even exiſtence ſo materially depend, is the primary and eſpecial object of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL; a work which, though intended chiefly for the uſe of the Faculty, will convey ſuch a variety of practical and intereſting information, as cannot fail to prove acceptable and uſeful to every claſs of readers.

The following outline of the Plan comprehends the different objects to which the attention of the Editors will be principally directed:

I. Eſſays on the moſt important ſubjects of Medicine, conſidered with reſpect to the Origin, Prevention, and Cure of Diſeaſes in general.

II. Every recent Improvement and Diſcovery in Botany, Chemiſtry, Pharmacy, and other medical ſciences; accurate accounts of new Remedies, whether they are ſuch as have acquired reputation ſuperior to their merit, or ſuch as deſerve to be more generally known and employed.

III. An abridged view of the prevailing Epidemics of the ſeaſon; a narrative of their uſual progreſs; directions for the proper diet and regimen to be obſerved by the patient; together with the moſt ſucceſsful method of treating the diſorder, agreeably to the ſtate, habit, and conſtitution of the individual.

IV. Impartial hiſtories of the moſt celebrated Patent and other Quack Medicines, and critical inveſtigations of their various pretenſions.

V. Remarkable and authentic Medical Caſes, communicated by correſponding Practitioners in all parts of the world, and occaſionally extracted from foreign Medical Journals.

VI. Geographical Deſcriptions of Countries and Places, written chiefly with a view to appreciate their relative ſalubrity in point of climate, air, and ſituation; their local diſeaſes and remedies; their population, mortality, &c.—Speculations upon the defects ſubſiſting in the Medical Police of this and other countries.

VII. A Review of all new Publications in the various Departments of Medical Science, and a comprehenſive *Catalogue Raiſonnée*, with occaſional extracts of characteriſtic and ſtriking paſſages.—Under this head will be compreſſed the ſubſtance of every valuable publication, as far as the Practice of Medicine is concerned.

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IX. Monthly Tables of the Variations which take place in the wholeſale Price of Drugs, and other articles employed in Medicine; hints and cautions how to detect the frequent Adulterations of ſuch ſubſtances.

X. Original Communications to the Editors;—Notice of Medical Works in hand, or in the Preſs—of new Eſtabliſhments, &c.

In conformity with the objects which form the baſis of the preſent undertaking, the Editors reſpectfully ſolicit the ſupport of the Public, and principally of the Medical Faculty, to a work which, while it more particularly claims their attention, cannot fail to be of very conſiderable uſe to Society in general.—As practical knowledge, however, can be derived and promoted only by reaſoning upon facts, and drawing juſt concluſions, this Journal can admit neither fanciful hypotheſes, nor abſtruſe ſpeculations; but conjectures which poſſeſs the merit of ingenuity and novelty will not be excluded; as they frequently have a tendency to ſuggeſt hints in other reſpects valuable, and which may be applicable to uſeful purpoſes.

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